Among the myriad of unit crests in the U.S. Army is one emblazoned with the Latin motto: *undique venimus*. When times were bad because of equipment failure, the chaplain of that unit jested that the phrase meant: “We come apart in many places.” Actually, the phrase means: “We come from many parts,” or better, “We have come from every place.”

That’s an excellent motto for a unit of the U.S. Army. While it may have been chosen to emphasize the effectiveness of certain weaponry, the fact is that it says something far more significant about the personnel. Fortunately, as some writers have recently noted, the great “melting pot” of America was a myth. “We have come from every place,” and each of us has made a unique contribution to a single nation. Various attempts to squeeze all Americans into a standard mold have been resisted regularly. As contradictory as it may sound, we have been united and strengthened by the richness of our diversity.

In the same vein, we would do well to recognize the potential of our religious pluralism. As Dr. John Mulder points out in this issue, “Religious freedom and the recognition of cultural diversity might free the church to measure American society rather than be swallowed up by it.”

All of which serves as an introduction to this issue. You’ll find no central theme this time. Each author brings to us a matter of information and concern from his perspective and, more importantly, from his experience. No matter that we may not agree with every maxim stated or every conclusion reached. The mere exposure to their perspective can broaden our insight, stimulate our curiosity, and encourage our quest for a better understanding of ourselves and those we serve. In Dr. Bertram Atwood’s words from his inclosed article, “The preacher isn’t around to answer questions nobody today is asking. Rather, he is to ask the right questions.”

I want to use this space also to express my personal thanks to Chaplain (LTC) Joseph E. Galle III who served as the editor for our journal since July 1974. His own outstanding talents as a writer, demonstrated by the reprint of his award-winning article in this edition, made him a capable collector of stimulating works from which we all benefited.

While I wish Joe success in his new assignment, I also welcome Chaplain (LTC) Rodger R. Venzke, our new editor. At the same time, let me repeat the invitation of our preface, encouraging each of you to continue to share the products of your experience and research. We wear the same uniform and are assigned to the same branch, we worship the same God and serve the same nation. Still we are individuals,